

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amended Claims

Patent Claims

I claim:

1. (Amended) A soil compaction device ~~with~~comprising:
 - a soil contact plate ~~(5)~~;
 - an oscillator ~~(1, 2, 3, 4)~~ that acts on the soil contact plate ~~(5)~~, has at least two eccentric masses ~~(3, 4)~~ that rotate in opposite directions whose phase relationship can be adjusted relative to one another by means of a positioning unit ~~(6, 10)~~; and with
 - at least one moving operator element ~~(8)~~ to control the positioning unit ~~(6, 10)~~;

~~characterized in that~~wherein a sensor unit ~~(11)~~ is provided to determine the position of the operator element ~~(8)~~ ~~(at least one)~~ and to produce a signal to control the positioning unit ~~(6)~~.

2. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the operator element ~~(8)~~ and the sensor unit ~~(11)~~ are attached to a guide handle ~~(7)~~ of the soil compaction device.

3. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the sensor unit ~~(11)~~ has at least one capacitive, inductive or resistive sensor.

4. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the sensor unit ~~(11)~~ has at least one Hall sensor ~~(13)~~ or a reed contact as well as a transmitting element ~~(12)~~ attached to the operator element ~~(8)~~.

5. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein the sensor unit (11) has at least one proximity switch.

6. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~one of the above~~ claims, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein the positioning unit (6) has a fluid-activated piston/cylinder unit as well as an electromechanical valve controlled by the signal from the sensor unit (11) to control a fluid stream at the piston/cylinder unit.

7. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~one of the above~~ claims, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein two operator elements (8) are provided that move independent of one another and through which the phase relationship of a group of rotating eccentric masses (3, 4) can be changed.

8. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~one of the above~~ claims, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein the operator element(s) (8) can be tilted away from a spring effect from a zero position, and in this zero position its overall force resulting from the rotating eccentric masses (3, 4) has no horizontal component.

9. (Amended) A soil compaction device according to claim 1 ~~one of the above~~ claims, characterized in ~~that~~ wherein, in addition to the operator elements (8), a remote control unit is provided with a sending unit that can be spatially separated from the soil compaction device and with a receiving unit (9) attached to the soil compaction device, wherein a signal can be produced by the receiver unit (9) to control the positioning unit (6).